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ABSTRACT

"Confronting the New Politics of Child and Family Policy in the United States" is an 18-month project designed to help states, local governments, and the voluntary sector as they respond to the social policy debates and changes precipitated by the 104th Congress. The project's main vehicle, aside from exploratory and analytic work, is a series of consultations and mini-conferences, each based on one or more commissioned overview papers. This document reports on the fifth mini-conference, a meeting on child welfare in the context of welfare reform efforts held in October 1996. New legislation replaces Aid to Families with Dependent Children with Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), which places a 5-year limit on the receipt of cash assistance and sets work requirements for adults. What these changes mean for children, and how protecting the child fits with the changes was the focus of these discussions. The seminal paper for this conference was "Child Welfare in the Context of Welfare Reform" by Mark Courtney, which emphasizes that welfare changes are likely to have adverse impacts on children. Discussants' remarks (Kimberly Barnes-O'Conner, MaryLee Allen, Sheri Steisel) and a review of developments in Ohio (Isaac Palmer), Wisconsin (Jean Rogers), California (G. Peter Digre), and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Carol Williams) are included. An appendix lists conference participants. (SLD)

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